

13th NMIFA ORDINARY CONGRESS

ACTIVITY REPORT



FOREWORD FROM GENERAL SECRETARY

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Activity Report for the 13th Ordinary Congress is highlighted by several milestones in NMI soccer, the continued growth of our various programs, and the many opportunities afforded to our national players and technical staff.

In late October 2022, the NMIFA inaugurated its second regulation pitch, a facility that is part of the NMISTC Expansion Project that broke ground in March 2022. The inauguration ceremony was witnessed by our local leaders, NMIFA club members, officers, and players, and our community members and other stakeholders. The new facility now brings the NMIFA's investment to infrastructure development to \$6.3 million and this will be critical in our efforts to support the continued growth of our programs and the NMI's sports tourism initiatives.

The East Asian Football Association leadership also took part in the celebration of the opening of the NMISTC's second regulation pitch, as EAFF members and officers joined the NMIFA in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the facility in early November 2022. The ceremony was part of the activities during the EAFF Standing Committee Meetings that Saipan and the NMIFA hosted for the first time. To complete its historic visit, the EAFF also hosted a celebration for its 20th anniversary, giving the Northern Mariana Islands an opportunity to showcase its cultures and traditions in front of the honored guests and the NMIFA the chance to share its relentless journey toward the promotion of soccer on the islands.

Another major achievement for NMI soccer—a recent one—was the sweet sweep made by our national teams in the Marianas Cup 2023 held in August. The NMI U23 Women's National Team dominated the two-leg series with an aggregate score of 7-1, while the NMI U23 Men's came through in the deciding Game 2, 3-0, after losing the opener, 0-1, for the win and aggregate score of 3-1.

The NMI won the women's division matchup in the Marianas Cup for the third straight time (2018, 2019, and 2023), while the men's earned the victory for the first time since the inception of the Marianas Cup in 2007.

Earlier in March 2023, the NMI U19 Women's National Team played in the AFC U20 Asian Women's Cup 2024 Uzbekistan Qualifiers in Palestine. The NMI's female players challenged Nepal's representatives and the host country. In April, it was the NMI U17 Women's National Team's turn to leave the island, as they headed to Thailand and competed against the host and Malaysia in the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Indonesia 2024 Qualifiers.

In September 2023, the NMU U15 Men's National Team went to Qingdao, China and participated in the FIFA Forward Developmental Programme East Asian Football Federation U15 Men's Championship 2023 where they battled Mongolia, Macau, South Korea, and the host nation.

In local competitions, there was increase in participation in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2023, while besides the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 seasons of the Dove Women's League, the NMIFA Women's Committee was also to open events for Masters and a Summer League. MSL 1 and 2 managed to keep their respective field for Spring 2023 and are on their way to the fall season.

For the Interscholastic Soccer League, there was also an increase of participation for the 2022-2023 season and the number is expected to rise anew for the 2023-2024 school year, as the elementary and girls middle school divisions alone have already accounted for 26 teams.

The Junior National Academy continues to identify potential talents for the national team pool with its 2023-2024 batch of enrollees of 12-and-under children reaching more than 60 players. Nearly 40 made the cut and are not participating in specialized training sessions.



The NMIFA remains committed to the continued development of coaches and other individuals involved in the program and is thankful to the Asian Football Confederation for providing educational opportunities and experiences to the key technical people in NMI soccer.

In closing, the NMIFA is looking at a date with history again, as we will be sending the NMI Men's National Team to the Solomon Islands 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara in November. We are looking forward to your strong support to the team and to our collaborative efforts in using soccer as a platform to offer live-changing opportunities to our community members and encouraging them to live a healthier lifestyle through involvement in sports.

Thank you for your support.



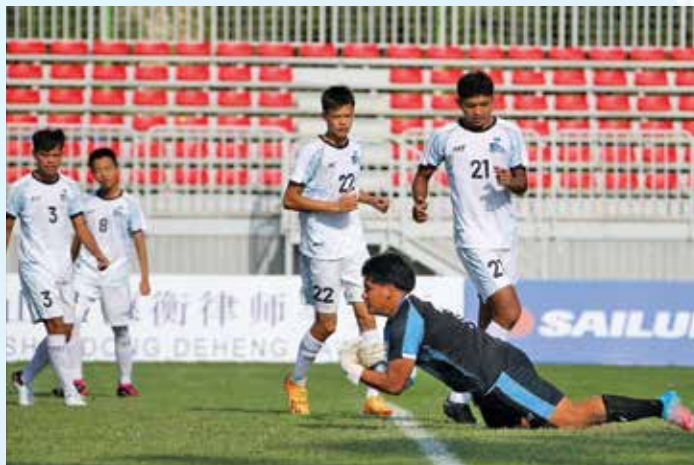
Ross Zapanta

General Secretary



NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

Both the Asian Football Confederations and the East Asian Football Federation provided NMI players under the NMIFA National Team Program opportunities to compete off-island in 2023. Japan Football Association was also very helpful in hosting our Men's National Team's training camp in J Village in Fukushima and Tuloy FC in the Philippines for the NMI U9 Women's NT, while the Guam Football Association continued to partner with the NMIFA for several friendlies.



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Events

AFC U20 Asian Women's Cup
2024 Uzbekistan Qualifiers
AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup
Indonesia 2024 Qualifiers
EAFF U15 Men's Championships

Date

March 8-12, 2023

April 26-30, 2023

September 1-8, 2023

Venue

Palestine

Thailand

China

Results

NMI (0), Nepal (6)
NMI (1), Palestine (3)
NMI (0), Thailand (11)
NMI (1), Malaysia (5)
NMI (0), Mongolia (4)

NMI (2), Macau (5)
NMI (0), S. Korea (23)

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CAMP

Events

NMI Men's NT Training Camp
NMI U19 Women's NT Training Camp

Date

July 19-25, 2023
March 5-7, 2023

Venue

Japan
Philippines

Delegation

22 players, 3 officials
20 players, 5 officials

FRIENDLIES

Team

NMI U17 Women's National Team
NMI (1), Guam U20 (1)

Date

April 9-10, 2023

Venue

Guam

Results

NMI (2), Guam U17 (3)

NMI (2), Guam U17 (1)

MARIANAS CUP 2023

Team

NMI U23 Women's NT

NMI U23 Men's NT

Date

August 3&5, 2023

August 3&5, 2023

Venue

Saipan

Saipan

Results

NMI (5), Guam (1)
NMI (2), Guam (0)
NMI (0), Guam (1)
NMI (3), Guam (0)

JUNIOR NATIONAL ACADEMY

The Northern Marianas Islands Football Association's elite program opened the Junior National Academy Batch 2023-2024 tryouts in August and the trials drew more than 60 participants. The program is for players in the 12 and under age group and focus on providing them essential fundamental skills of football to help players build a strong foundation needed to become NMI National Team players in the future. Nearly 40 players have been selected for the program and will train every Tuesday and Thursday from September 14, 2023 to March 21, 2024. They will then represent the NMI in a series of friendlies against Guam teams from March 25 to 28, 2024.



SCHOOLS OUTREACH

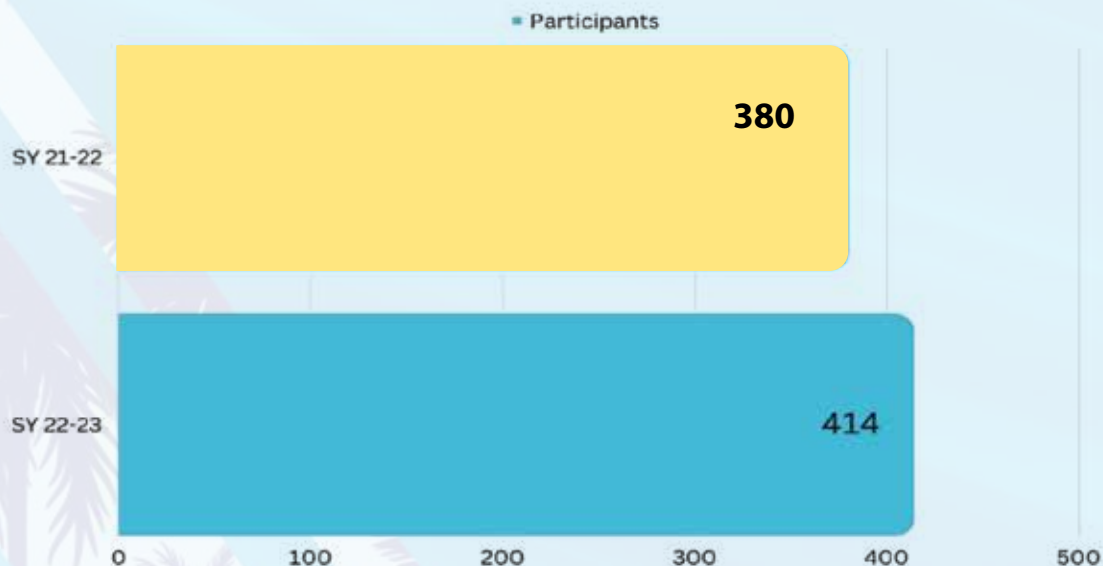
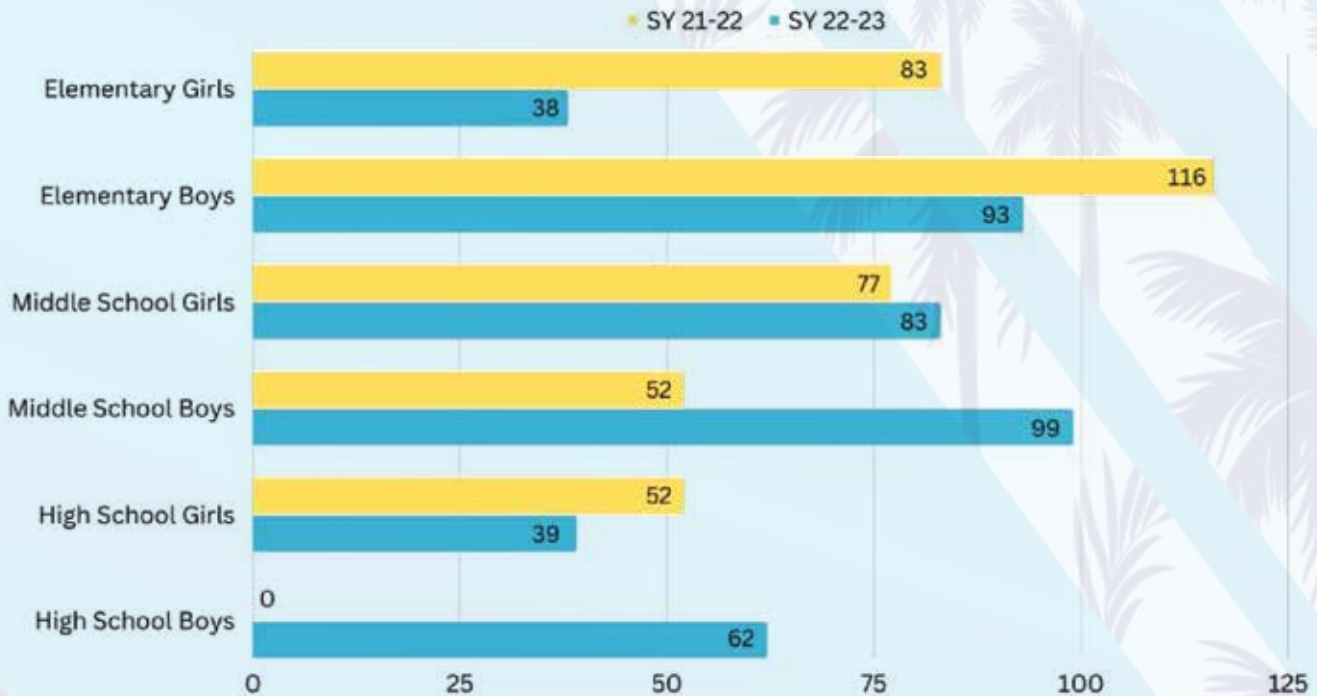
Recognizing the importance of engaging young students in the development of grassroots soccer in the NMI, the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association brought the 10th Grassroots Football Day to Garapan Elementary School and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School with around 150 students attending the activities.



INTERSCHOLASTIC SOCCER LEAGUE

A report from the CNMI Public School System's Athletic Department showed an increase of 9% in students participation in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's interscholastic soccer program, covering all grade levels.

PSS Athletic Program Sports Participation Data (Soccer)



9% increase in overall participation

Participation for the 2023-2024 school year is expected to increase too, as the fall season 2023 alone has 20 teams in elementary division and 7 in the middle school level. The other divisions will start competition in the second quarter of the new school year.

**Co-ed Elementary School Division
(2023-2024 Season)
Participating Teams**

Group A

Garapan ES-1
William S. Reyes ES-1
Koblerville ES-2
Gregorio T. Camacho-2
Mt. Carmel School-1
Group C
Grace Christian Academy
San Vicente ES-1
Kagman ES-1
Saipan Community School
Eucon Elementary School

Group

Garapan ES-2
Koblerville ES-1
San Vicente ES-2
Kagman ES-2
Brilliant Star School-2
Group D
William S. Reyes ES-2
Saipan International School
Gregorio T. Camacho ES-1
Brilliant Star School-1
Mt. Carmel School-2



**Girls Middle School Division
(2024-2024 Season)
Participating Teams**

Saipan International School
Francisco M. Sablan MS
Dandan Middle School
Chacha Oceanview MS
Hopwood Middle School
Tinian Middle School 1 & 2



YOUTH PROGRAM

AFC Grassroots Football Day

Besides going to schools to celebrate the AFC Grassroots Football Day, the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association also marked the event with its member clubs, drawing more than 400 participants in the annual festivities held at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2023 (February 11 – May 13, 2023)

Division	Number of Teams	Champion
Under 6	7 Teams	N/A
Under 8	15 Teams	N/A
Under 10	14 Teams	N/A
Under 12 NCBoys	5 Teams	N/A
Under 12 NCGirls	7 Teams	N/A
Under 12 CBoys	4 Teams	SFC
Under 14 Girls	5 Teams	SUFC
Under 14 Boys	7 Teams	KNFC 1
Under 17 Girls	5 Teams	KNFC
Under 17 Boys	4 Teams	THFC



TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2023 (September 16 – December 9, 2023)

Division	Number of Teams	Status
Under 8	10 Teams	Ongoing
Under 10	10 Teams	Ongoing
Under 12 NC Boys	10 Teams	Ongoing
Under 12 NC Girls	10 Teams	Ongoing
Under 12 Boys	5 Teams	Ongoing
Under 14 Boys	7 Teams	Ongoing
Under 14 Girls	6 Teams	Ongoing
Under 17 Boys	4 Teams	Ongoing
Under 17 Girls	5 Teams	Ongoing



ADULT PROGRAM

MSL Spring 2023 Results

MSL 1: March 12–June 11, 2023

- 1st ELEVEN TIGER
- 2nd MP UNITED
- 3rd KANOA
- 4th THFC
- 5th PAIRE
- 6th HANA

MSL 2: March 10–June 18, 2023

- 1st MATANSA
- 2nd CHANG BAI
- 3rd SFC 1
- 4th OLD B BANK
- 5th WDT
- 6th MP UNITED
- 7th SFC 2

Dove Women's League Spring 2023

Masters: May 19–June 16, 2023

Participating Teams

- 1 KANOA FC
- 2 MP UNITED
- 3 MATANSA
- 4 THFC
- 5 PAIRE

Summer League:

July 9 – August 13, 2023

Participating Teams

- 1 MFC 1 – North Stars
- 2 MFC 2 – Northern Lights
- 3 SFC 1 – Wiz KaFIFA
- 4 SFC 2 – Vicks Your Face
- 5 KNFC 1 – Ma'am Kicks a lot
- 6 KNFC 2 – Club Always Ready
- 7 MPU 1 - M
- 8 MPU 2 - P
- 9 MPU 3 - U
- 10 THFC 1– Kick & Cleats
- 11 THFC 2– First Touch
- 12 PFC

Tinekcha-Awaal League;

May 10–June 14, 2023

Results

- 1st KANOA FC
- 2nd SHIRLEY'S FC
- 3rd TAKE CARE
- 4 U17 NMI DT

Flores-Pee Luwal League; February 19–June 11, 2023

Results

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1st MP United FC | 5th Kanoa FC |
| 2nd Southern United FC | 6th Tan Holdings FC |
| 3rd Shirley's FC | 7th Matansa FC |
| 4th Paire FC | |

Simiya-Faayul League; April 23 – June 11, 2023

Participating Teams

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| 1 MFC | 5 MPU 1 |
| 2 KNFC 1 | 6 MPU 2 |
| 3 KNFC 2 | 7 PFC |
| 4 SFC | 8 THFC |



TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is pleased to gain access to valuable programs that will contribute greatly to the continued development of its technical staff and other stakeholders in NMI soccer.

Onsite AFC Refereeing STAR Programme:

NMI Soccer Training Center, Saipan | July 12-16, 2023 | 25 Participants

The program aims to provide support and assistance to its 47 member associations, including the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, in enhancing their refereeing administration and development. The course ran from July 16 to 25, 2023.



NMIFA B Coaching Diploma Course

NMI Soccer Training Center, Saipan | July 6-11; Aug. 7-14; Dec. 6-12; Jan. 15-21, 2024 | 10 participants

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is conducting its first NMIFA B Coaching Diploma Course, which is divided into four modules and covers both classroom discussions and practical sessions at the pitch. NMIFA technical director and head coach Michiteru Mita is the main instructor for the course.



Basic Referee Course

NMI Soccer Training Center, Saipan | January 27, 2023 | 22 Participants
The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association conducted the Basic Referee Course for new, beginner, and intermediate referees aspiring referees participating in practical and theoretical sessions of the class.



Grassroots Kids Leader Course

NMI Soccer Training Center, Saipan | January 28, 2023 | 26 Participants
The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association conducted a Grassroots Kids Leader Coaching Course as part of its continued efforts to further strengthen the grassroots soccer program in the NMI.

AFC-Led Courses/Events

AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2024 Round 1 (March 8-12, 2023)
Participant: Ruselle Zapanta (Match Commissioner)

AFC Elite Youth Online Session (April 27, 2023)
Participants: Michiteru Mita, Ronnel Ocanada,

Jireh Yobech, Irish Pagarao, Mae Ito, and Jersh Angeles

4th AFC Coach Education Conference 2023 (May 2-4, 2023)
Participants: Mae Ito and Michiteru Mita

AFC Women's Football Online Session (May 23, 2023)
Participants: Michiteru Mita, Mae Ito, Irish Pagarao, Jimmy Tang, and Ronnel Ocanada

AFC Grassroots Online Session (May 30, 2023)
Participants: Michiteru Mita, Jersh Angeles, Raymond Zapanta, and Ruselle Zapanta

AFC Professional Football Seminar 2023 (July 21-August 30, 2023)
Participants: Ross Zapanta and Ruselle Zapanta

AFC Fitness Coaching Tutors Online Session 2023 (August 19-September 12, 2023)
Participants: Mae Ito, Michiteru Mita, and Davy Laxa

AFC Champions League 2023/24 Group Stage (September 2023)
Participant: Zapanta (Match Commissioner)

AFC Referee Academy (September 25-29, 2023)
Participant: Davy Laxa

IMPORTANT EVENTS

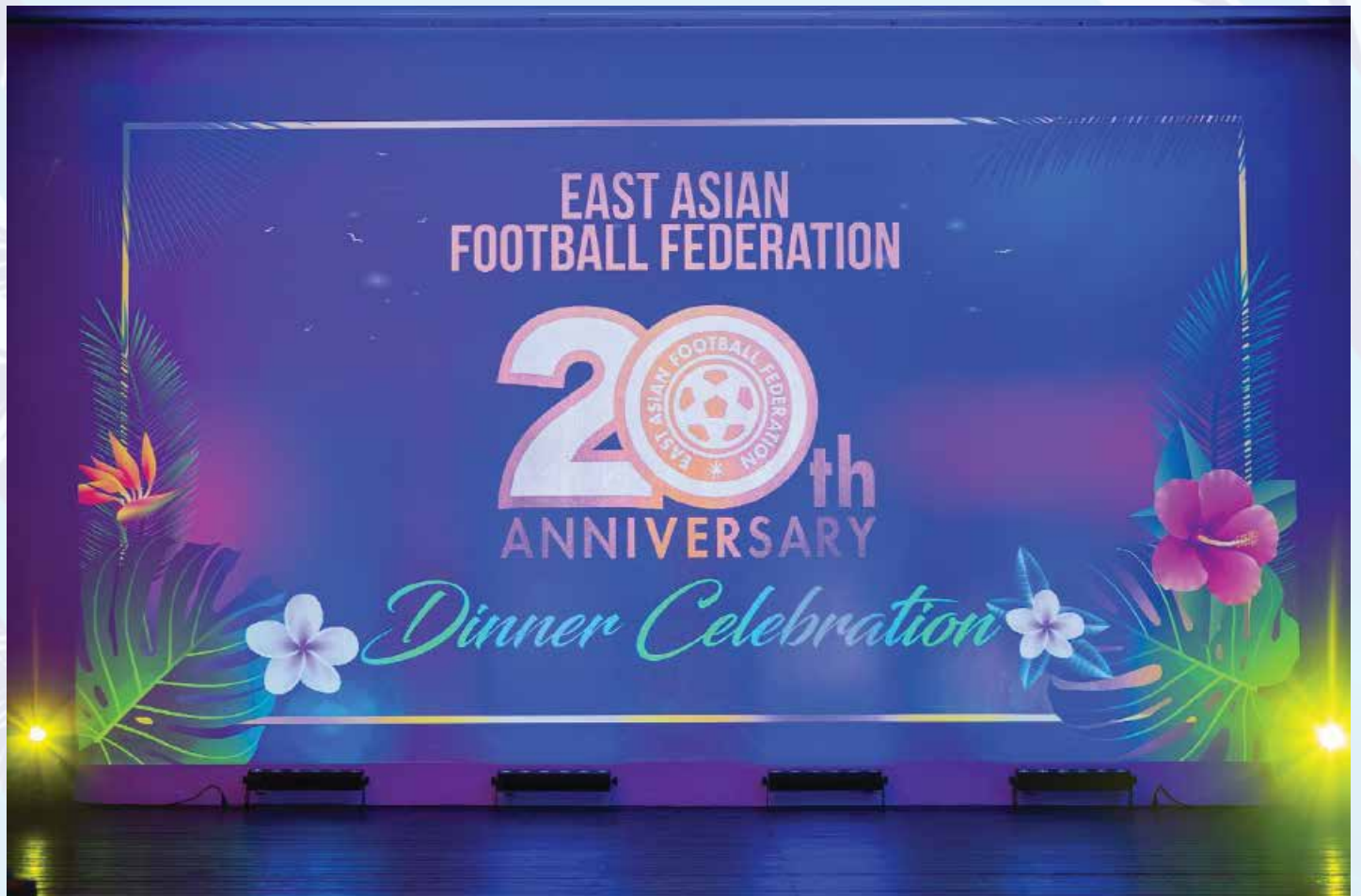
Inauguration of the NMISTC Expansion Project

Late in 2022 saw the completion of the second regulation pitch at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. Government leaders, NMIFA officials, NMI soccer stakeholders, and visitors from the East Asian Football Federation attended the inauguration ceremonies of the second regulation pitch, which is part of the NMIFA's expansion project for the NMISTC.



18th EAFF Standing Committee Meetings/20th EAFF Anniversary Celebration

For the first time since becoming a member of the East Asian Football Federation in 2006, the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association hosted the EAFF Standing Committee Meetings early November, bringing together the key officials working on the continued development of soccer in East Asia and the further strengthening of its presence in the continental and world stages. To cap the meetings, the EAFF hosted a celebration of its 20th anniversary and invited NMI soccer leaders, players, and other stakeholders.



68th EAFF Executive Committee Meeting



11 November, 2022 Saipan, NMI



EAFF-NMIFA Youth Club Tournament 2022

This unique tournament was held in celebration of the strong partnership between the East Asian Football Federation and the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association. The format was different from the usual competitions, as participating clubs were required to field teams in the co-ed U8 and U10 age groups and in the girls and boys U13 and the champion was determined by points, which were based on how the clubs finished in each event.



Marianas Cup 2023

The revival of the Marianas Cup after its three-year absence due to the pandemic was special to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, as it did not only host the competition against rival Guam in August, it also celebrated a double victory for the NMI U23 Men's and U23 Women's National Team.

